

398

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

25X1

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Early Warning Outpost (VNOS) near Schafhausen	DATE DISTR.	29 April 1955
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	5
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT	
		REFERENCES	

25X1

25X1

USAF review completed.

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC						
-------	----	------	----	------	----	-----	----	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--

NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Early Warning Outpost (VNOS) Near Schafhausen

DATE DISTR. 18 Mar. 1955

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED

25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. [redacted] the location of a military barrack which later housed the VNOS unit (see overlay on page 4.) At that time, the barrack was being constructed by German workmen [redacted]. The barrack was completed in September 1953. It was a single-story brick building which measured 40 x 15 meters. The gabled roof was covered with tarpaper. An antenna consisting of one wire was strung from a wooden pole on the roof of the building to a nearby tree. One wire led into a window of the operations room. The building was located approximately 30 meters north of the road, and about 200 meters out of Schafhausen (N 50-34, E 10-10). A wooden fence enclosed the barrack from the north, east, and west, while the south wall of the building made up the other boundary. A gate in the southwest corner of the enclosure was guarded by an armed soldier 24 hours a day. At night, an additional guard patrolled the building.
2. After the barrack had been completed in September 1953, a VNOS unit arrived and moved into the building. The unit consisted of one sergeant and five soldiers. They occupied two rooms in the southern part of the barrack; one was [redacted] used as quarters and the other as the operations room. [redacted] the VNOS operations room [redacted] only the radio transmitter 1, a hand microphone, radio key, and a set of earphones. One telephone was installed in the quarters and one in the operations room. No other equipment was observed. Among other things [redacted] were about 30 pictures of American and British aircraft displayed on one of the walls in the operations room. The pictures were about 20 x 15 cm and showed only the profile of the plane. In

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

25X1

[redacted] the pictures were inadequate, one or the VNOS people brought a book from the quarters consisting of about 100 pages. One whole page was devoted to each aircraft, showing it in different positions and supplying the technical data on each. All aircraft in the book were either American or British.

25X1

3. The barrack was under 24-hour guard. During the day one soldier was stationed some 300 meters northeast of the building where a small wooden shack was located. The soldier on duty had a field telephone <sup>2</sup> and a set of binoculars. At night an additional guard walked back and forth along the building. The telephone was removed from the shack at night.
4. The VNOS detachment consisted of a sergeant who was in charge of the unit and did not perform any other duties, two radio operators, and three observers. Two men were on duty 24 hours a day. Watches lasted either four or six hours. The detachment was completely independent from the army guard company, except that VNOS personnel were compelled to attend political indoctrination lectures conducted by the border guard staff. They also shared the messing facilities with the border guards. The VNOS personnel were free of all extra duties. The attitude of the sergeant in charge of the VNOS unit toward the CO, a senior lieutenant of the border guard unit, was somewhat arrogant. On one occasion [redacted] the sergeant order the lieutenant out of the VNOS operations room in quite loud and profane language. The sign on the door to the operations room read "Off Limits to all Unauthorized Personnel".
5. [redacted] in the VNOS detachment [redacted] upon receipt of news in July to August 1954 that their tour of duty had been extended, all expressed their dissatisfaction very emphatically, including the sergeant who was to be demobilized shortly thereafter. The sergeant was later transferred from the detachment and, according to rumors, demobilized. This same sergeant had a girl friend in one of the nearby villages whom he used to see quite frequently. Nothing was done about it, even though the CO of the border guard unit supposedly knew about it.
6. The relations between the border guards and VNOS personnel were somewhat cool [redacted] jealousy caused by the fact that the VNOS people had better living conditions than the border troops might have had something to do with it.
7. There were no other VNOS units immediately along the border on the section, approximately 30 kilometers long, assigned to the second company of the 93rd Separate Guard Battalion. The unit had a separate telephone line connecting it with similar VNOS detachments along the border. [redacted] a telephone switchboard located in the hallway of the building [redacted] a row of push buttons with code names inscribed above each button. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

8. [redacted] all planes in sight flying along the border or the border area on the West Germany side are tracked. When the plane is spotted, the VNOS station relays the plane's position to the next station located in the direction in which the aircraft is flying. If the plane should fly to the East German interior territory, the message is sent to the rear [redacted]  
[redacted] 25X1  
25X1
9. Once in August 1954, a hard-top, three-axle truck arrived at the company location. There was no antenna or any other equipment on top of the truck. [redacted] all five people who arrived were officers. Only one of them wore a complete uniform. He wore an army uniform with Lt Col's insignia. The shoulder boards appeared to be silver. All others wore officer's breeches, boots, and t-shirts. They did not wear hats. The group remained in the caserne for three days, leaving early each morning and returning at night. [redacted] the group drove out to an elevated spot near Frankenheim (N 50-32, E 10-04) and spent the entire day there. 25X1  
25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

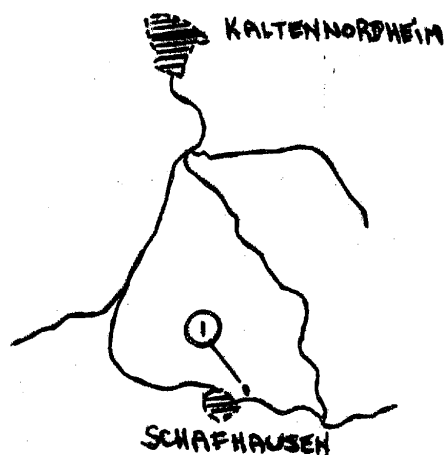
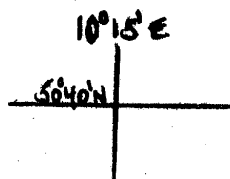
25X1

Location of Military Barrack

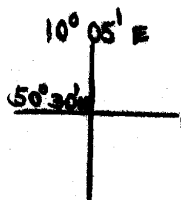
[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted] Scale 1:100,000)



- ① Military barrack which housed VNOS post.



CONFIDENTIAL